

Trauma Center Practice Management Guideline

Iowa Methodist Medical Center — Des Moines

Blank Children's Hospital – Des Moines

Emergent Bedside Neurosurgery Consultation

**ADULT & PEDIATRICS
Practice Management Guideline**

Effective: 5/2017

Contact: Trauma Medical Director

Last Reviewed: 4/2026

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for Emergency Department bedside Neurosurgery consultation in the injured patient.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Any trauma patient requiring Neurosurgical Emergency Department bedside consultation will be evaluated by the neurosurgery consultant within 30 minutes of request.

Neurosurgery consultation is required as an emergent bedside consultation in high risk trauma patients who present with any of the following:

- Penetrating wounds of the brain or spine
- Traumatic intracranial bleed with midline shift or impeding herniation
- Open depressed skull fracture
- Comatose patient with unilateral fixed, dilated pupil
- Traumatic brain injury requiring intracranial monitor placement
- Severe TBI (GCS < 9) with head CT evidence of intracranial trauma
- Moderate TBI (GCS 9-12) with head CT evidence of potential intracranial mass lesion
- Neurological deficit as a result of potential spinal cord injury
- Trauma Surgeon discretion